

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TEL AV 06417 291229Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PA-02 PRS-01
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IO-14 SSM-05 /055 W
-----097616 291232Z /44

R 291136Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7988
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 6417

STATE PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC

USIA FOR INA AND IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, IS
SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS ON SUCCESS OF VANCE VISIT

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF COMMENTARY BY PROF.
A. PERLMUTTER WHICH APPEARED IN MAARIV AUGUST 26.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

3. THE COMMENTATORS WERE WRONG: THE VANCE TRIP WAS
A SUCCESS.

4. JOSEPH KRAFT HEADED HIS COLUMN, IN WHICH HE WROTE
ABOUT SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE'S FORTHCOMING TRIP
TO THE M.E., WITH THE WORDS "MISSION IMPOSSIBLE". HE WAS
JOINED IN HIS PREDICTIONS OF FAILURE BY THE MAJORITY
OF JOURNALISTS. BUT THE FACT IS, THAT VANCE'S TRIP
WAS NEITHER RISKY NOR WAS HIS MISSION "IMPOSSIBLE".
THE MISTAKE MADE BY THE NEWSMEN IN THEIR ESTIMATES
WAS THAT NONE OF THEM ASKED THEMSELVES THE BASIC QUESTION
OF THE PURPOSE OF VANCE'S TRIP. THIS WRITER, TOO, ERRED
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TEL AV 06417 291229Z

IN HIS ANALYSIS OF THE EVENTS, OR IGNORED ELEMENTS HAVING
A DIRECT BEARING ON UNDERSTANDING THEM-(AFTER ALL,
THE LAST MAJOR SETTLEMENT ON THE M.E. WAS SIGNED BACK
IN SEPTEMBER 1975). VANCE'S TRIP HAD TWO MAIN OBJECTIVES,
AND BOTH THESE WERE FULLY ATTAINED. ONE-TO FLATTER
THE "MODERATE" ARABS, WITH SAUDI ARABIA'S RULERS AT THEIR
HEAD, AND THE SECOND - TO CREATE A WORLD PUBLIC OPINION

THAT WOULD REGARD ISRAEL (NOT THE ARABS*) AS AN ELEMENT LACKING FLEXIBILITY. THIS SECOND AIM WAS MEANT TO SABOTAGE BEGIN'S STRATEGY, WHICH IS DIRECTED AT BRINGING HOME TO THE WORLD THAT IT IS THE ARABS, AND NOT ISRAEL, WHO DO NOT WANT TO COMPROMISE. VANCE'S JOURNEY WAS NOT PROMPTED BY THE INTENTION OF CAUSING A CONFRONTATION WITH ISRAEL, BUT BY THE DESIRE TO UNDERMINE THE ASSUMPTIONS AT THE BASIS OF BEGIN'S POLICY, AND "CORRECT" THEM WITH THE HELP OF WORLD PUBLIC OPINION, ESPECIALLY OF U.S. PUBLIC OPINION. THUS THE VOYAGE PROVED A MAJOR SUCCESS. THE LEADING U.S. PAPERS EXTOLLED VANCE'S EFFORTS IN THEIR EDITORIALS-HIS ENDEAVOURS TO FIND A WAY OF BRIDGING THE GAP CONCERNING THE QUESTIONS OF PLO REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION, BY A MAJOR PROPAGANDA EFFORT DIRECTED AT CREATING THE FALSE IMPRESSION THAT THE PLO HAD CHANGED THEIR ATTITUDE ON RESOLUTION 242-AND THIS SO THAT ULTIMATELY IT WOULD BE 242 THAT CHANGED- AND IN A WAY SUITED TO THE PLO'S ENDS.

5. THE PAPERS THAT SANG VANCE'S PRAISES INCLUDED THE "NEW YORK TIMES", "WASHINGTON POST", "HERALD TRIBUNE," AND THE BRITISH "LONDON TIMES", "ECONOMIST", "OBSERVER" AND TO SOME EXTENT THE "DAILY TELEGRAPH". THEY WROTE IN THEIR EDITORIALS THAT VANCE HAD FOUND "FLEXIBILITY" IN THE ARAB TREND OF THROUGH. THEIR HEADLINES BLAZED WITH STATEMENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT ISRAEL WAS NOT PREPARED TO UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TEL AV 06417 291229Z

COMPROMISE. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT THESE HEADLINES AND THE GIST OF THE EDITORIALS WERE GUIDED BY A GROUP OF OFFICIALS OF THE M.E. SECTION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AND A SIMILAR SUCH DEPARTMENT IN THE CIA, WITH WILLIAM QUANDT AT THEIR HEAD-FRINED AND ALLY OF HODDING CARTER, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN.

6. THE VANCE TRIP WAS NOT PLANNED TO LEAD TO ANY PROGRESS IN RECONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, BUT TO ADVANCE THE AMERICAN INTEREST IN SAUDI ARABIA AND CREATE SUITABLE CONDITIONS FOR AN AMERICAN-SAUDI ARABINA UNDERSTANDING WHICH ALREADY STRETCHES FORM THE RED SEA, SOMALIA, EGYPT AND SUDAN TO THE MIDDLE EAST.

7. THE SHORT-TERM TACTICS REGARDING THE VANCE TRIP WAS A SHORT-TERM SUCCESS FOR THE U.S...THE LATTER SUCCEEDED IN CALMING THE SAUDIS, AND NURTURING THE HOPE THAT BEGIN WILL CHANGE HIS STAND AND ACCEPT THE U.S.(SO FAR VERBAL) AMENDMENT OF 242. THUS THE U.S. WILL NOT BE OBLIGATED, AT THE COMING SESSION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, TO VOTE AGAINST ANY PRO-ARAB MOTION (AS THEY DID DURING NIXON'S AND FORD'S TIME.)

8. VANCE'S TRIP ALSO MANAGED TO EMPTY THE U.S.-ISRAEL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OF ANY CONTENT, WHERE U.S. RELATIONS VIS-A-VIS THE PLO ARE CONCERNED. FROM THIS RESPECT MR. VANCE'S JOURNEY WAS A LIMITED-YET EXTREMELY IMPORTANT-SUCCESS.
LEWIS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV06417
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770311-0733
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770811/aaaaaitm.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 52062250-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1430600
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI PRESS ON SUCCESS OF VANCE VISIT
TAGS: PGOV, SOPN, IS, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/52062250-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009